

From: Scott Swanson
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in response to the request for public comments on the proposed settlement between the department of justice (DOJ) and Microsoft Corp. (MS) referenced on the web site at <http://www.usdoj.gov/atr/cases/ms-settle.htm>.

It is my opinion that the settlement against Microsoft is not fair to American consumers and does nothing to limit the anti-competitive actions of this monopoly. To call the current settlement proposal fair belittles the intelligence of the American population and does no credit to its government. If any settlement were to be at all effective, it would have to limit the companies ability to maintain, or extend, its monopoly. This is not currently the case.

If competition is to be encouraged, Microsoft will have to be stopped from being able to 'bundle' their software. Bundling their software (or including multiple products in one package at one price) gives them the opportunity to make it more expensive to buy a product from a competitor and limit the ability of that competitor from being able to compete on a level playing field. Each piece of software distributed by Microsoft should be sold separately with a separate price.

Microsoft should be limited from adapting standards to suit their own purposes. Any file formats or communication formats should be released to anyone interested long before it could be included in any product. This would limit the ability of Microsoft to abuse their position on the majority of desktops to extend it to another area where they didn't yet have a stronghold.

The entire application programming interface (API) should be made available to anyone that wishes to program against any Microsoft application. This would allow programmers external to Microsoft to compete on equal footing with those inside Microsoft.

Microsoft has been found to have illegally maintained its monopoly position. Yet there has been no remedy for this situation proposed that would hamper that illegal activity. I strongly oppose the current proposal and hope that a much stronger ruling will take its place.

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